



Steve McDermott <mcdermotts@newton.k12.ia.us>

School Board - Friday

10 messages

Steve McDermott <mcdermotts@newton.k12.ia.us>

Fri, Feb 1, 2013 at 8:27 PM

To: Andy Elbert <andyelbert@gmail.com>, Bill Perrenoud <perrenoudbill@gmail.com>, Dennis Combs <realestate@iowatelecom.net>, Don&Pam Poynter <poynterdp@gmail.com>, Donna Cook <cookie@pcpartner.net>, Nat Clark <nat@clarkcentral.net>, Sheri Benson <sheribenson@tx.rr.com>

Bcc: Bill Peters <petersb@newton.k12.ia.us>, Scott Garvis <garviss@newton.k12.ia.us>, Scott Bauer <bauers@newton.k12.ia.us>, Jim Gilbert <gilbertj@newton.k12.ia.us>, Gayle Isaac <isaacg@newton.k12.ia.us>, Laura Selover <seloverl@newton.k12.ia.us>

Good Evening,

I hope your week has gone well. We had a nice, hour-long visit today in my office with Congressman Dave Loebsack. Sheri Benson and Dennis Combs participated in the discussion along with about a dozen other school and law enforcement folks. Channel 13 filmed the discussion. Hopefully this will prove to be a productive chat.

I must also give you a heads-up on two unfortunate incidents that happened at school today. I share these in confidence with you as a board member. This information can not be mentioned to others. It will also be best if you do not reply with comments regarding either situation. Thanks!

First, a teacher became frustrated with a defiant student today at the middle school and struck the student in the back of the head with an open hand. This is of course totally unacceptable behavior from a staff member. The staff member apologized immediately to the student and self-reported the incident to the principal. The principal interviewed the student and the teacher. He then contacted the parents to inform them of what happened and placed the teacher on administrative leave until further notice. We will remain in contact with the family and will determine additional measures necessary.

[REDACTED]

Behaviors in both of these incidents will not be tolerated and each has been and will continue to be dealt with as swiftly and decisively as possible, following policy and legal guidelines. While in contact with the administrators involved today in both incidents, I have been impressed by their handling of each. We will do our best to take the actions necessary to assure proper lessons have been learned and that such things do not happen again. While we understand incidents like these happen in schools at times, we will never accept such behaviors.

This information is extremely confidential and must not be shared. Should someone contact you regarding either incident, you may acknowledge your general knowledge that an incident happened and that you have been assured the incident is being actively addressed by the administration. You may listen beyond that point, but please do not engage in any sort of extended discussion. Given the fact that you may potentially be involved with board action associated with one or both incidents, it will be legally wise to remain unbiased in either issue before possibly being asked for your consideration at the board table.

Sorry to report this news. I will keep you posted. Thanks for your continued support.

Steve

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"Teams are strongest when individuals learn to complete each other, not compete with each other."

"Demographics do not determine a child's destiny. Learning can."

"We are what we do and not the stuff we lay claim to."

- Buck Ramsey